

CoAS Newsletter

Council of Affiliated Societies, Society for American Archaeology

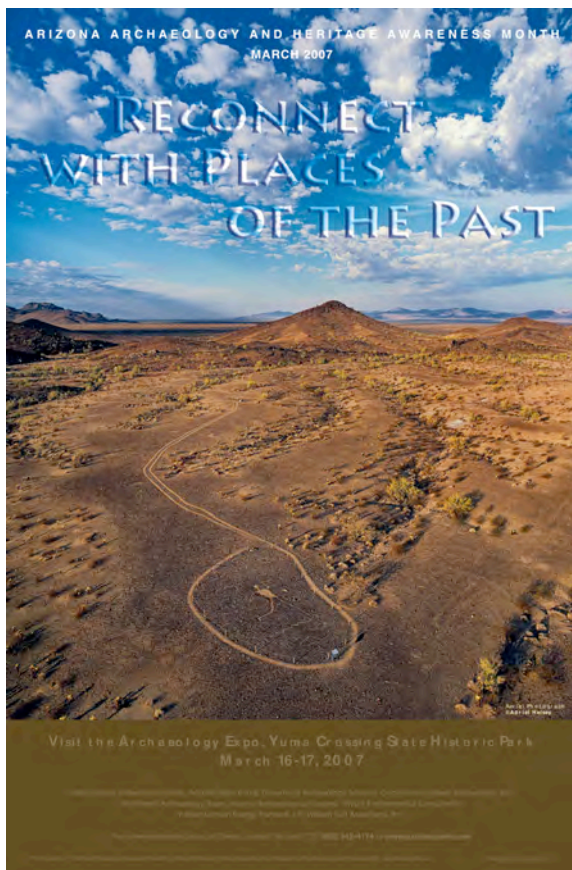
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Number 15-Fall

December 2007

ARCHAEOLOGY WEEK POSTER CONTEST

Winners of the poster contest were voted upon at the annual SAA meeting in Austin, TX, from among the many beautiful entries. Posters from Arizona (First, below) and Wyoming (Second, right) are shown here. Contest sponsors are the Public Education Committee (PEC) and CoAS.



Devils Tower
AMERICA'S FIRST NATIONAL MONUMENT
Centennial of the Antiquities Act, 1906-2006
WYOMING ARCHAEOLOGY AWARENESS MONTH • SEPTEMBER 2006

CONTENTS: Archaeology Month Poster Winners (p. 1); Notes from the Chair (p. 2); 2007 Business Meeting Minutes (p. 2-4); Notes from Member Societies (p. 4-10); Invitation to Participate in CoAS Activities at 2008 SAA Meeting (p. 11-12) List of CoAS Officers (p. 12)

FROM THE CHAIR:

To begin I would like to thank the CoAS representatives at the 2007 Austin business meeting for putting their trust in me as the chair of our organization. I look forward to serving the organization and will try to follow in the footsteps of my predecessors to expand our involvement in the SAA, expand our programs, and reach out to the vast avocational and other regional archaeological communities throughout the Americas.

In that regard we have made some progress. Last year a short article appeared in the SAAs *Archaeological Record* (May 2007, pp. 35-36) on the *Past, Present, and Future of CoAS*. This has had an effect of alerting many SAA members to a little-known branch of their society. As many SAA members are also members of local and regional societies, the result has already been several new applications to the council. Perhaps as significant is our success in getting the CoAS newsletter on the SAA open web page. All our member societies, but perhaps even more important all of their individual members, now have access to the CoAS Newsletter. And, even more to the point, non-member societies also have access to the newsletter and will hopefully be encouraged to join us. Finally we are in the process of developing closer ties with the Crabtree award committee, the SAA committee that recognizes outstanding avocational contributions to archaeology. CoAS will continue to request and provide booths to its members at the SAAs, a place that offers a location to display member society journals, brochures, posters, and any other material they wish.

Finally, I would like to acknowledge the immediate past and current officers for efforts they have devoted to developing and maintaining CoAS's programs. Susan Edwards, the chair for the past four years should be especially noted for organizing a symposium on avocational professional partnerships at the 2007 annual SAA meeting. The current officers are greatly indebted to Cathy Poetschat, for serving as the vice-chair of the organization. More than anyone else she has helped organize the CoAS booths at the annual SAA meetings, assisted in scheduling volunteers to sit at the booths, and sat at the booth herself for many hours. Moreover, her longstanding involvement with our organization makes her a valuable asset for institutional memory. Hester Davis's invaluable editing of the newsletter since its beginning in 1994 until 2002 is much appreciated, after which she has been serving as secretary of the organization. She has also organized at least one CoAS sponsored symposium at the 2005 SAA meetings highlighting the contributions of avocational archaeologists to archaeology. Although not the first sponsored CoAS session, the topic of the symposium is particularly appropriate and Hester's efforts are pointing us in the right direction for the future. I hope that the current and future officers will take a hint from her and continue to organize CoAS sponsored sessions. For all her

efforts she undoubtedly deserves a lot more than I could possibly write in these pages and her institutional memory, of course, precedes us all. Finally, we all appreciate the efforts of Gina Powell in taking over the newsletter editorship, a difficult job to say the least.

I look forward to seeing all of you at the CoAS business meeting during the next annual SAA convention in Vancouver. Bring new ideas, especially regarding what your society would like to see from CoAS and, of course, bring material for the table. [Please see p. 11 for the official invitation].

Marcel Kornfeld
CoAS Chair



Former CoAS Chair, Susan Edwards, at her contribution to the sponsored poster session, 2007.

MINUTES OF THE COAS BUSINESS MEETING

April 26, 2007; Austin, TX

The meeting was called to order by Chair Susan Edwards at approximately 4:10 pm

Present were the following Affiliate Representatives:

Susan Edwards, Nevada Archaeological Association
Candace Ehringer, Society for California Archaeology
Marcel Kornfeld, Wyoming Archeological Society
Brenda Poulous, Arizona Archaeological Society
Virginia Wulfkuhle, Kansas Anthropological Association
Hester Davis, Arkansas Archaeological Society
Carolyn Spock, Texas Archaeological Society
Pam Wheat-Stranahan, Texas Archaeological Society
Cathy Poetschat, Oregon Archaeological Society
Gina Powell, Missouri Archeological Society

Guest: Mary Lou Larson, SAA Crabtree Award Committee Chair

SAA Board Liaison: John Driver (arrived, with many apologies, about 5 minutes before adjournment because of another meeting that lasted TOO long)

Susan welcomed everyone, and asked that a pad of paper be passed so that everyone's name address and email could be recorded. She introduced Mary Lou who wished to speak first in order to go on to another meeting.

Mary Lou indicated that the Crabtree Award Committee would like to have a member of CoAS serve on the Committee. The present committee members beside herself are Tom Green, from Arkansas, Kevin Smith, of Rhode Island, and Jim Wood, Idaho. Brenda asked if it should be someone whom we know works under professional supervision? Discussion indicated that others agreed. Nominations need to be in to Mary Lou by 1 December, and by 1 June we should have a name of someone to be on the committee. She left at the end of the discussion.

Susan asked if there were any additions or corrections to the Minutes of the 2006 meeting that she distributed. There were none and a motion was made, seconded, and passed to approve them as distributed.

Officers Reports:

Chair: Susan indicated that she hadn't been able to be active this spring because of fieldwork. However, she did organize the Poster Session, which will be held tomorrow afternoon, with nine states participating. She had also made two requests to the SAA Board. One was for having a member of CoAS on the Crabtree Committee—which seems to be happening, and the other was for a second table for our booth in the Exhibit Room, which has not happened. NOTE: Dean Snow, our previous liaison with the Board came to the room just before the meeting started and asked Susan if she had anything for the Board and she told him of these two things and that not only was there no second table, but word is our request had not reached Kevin (who is in charge of the Exhibit Room). Dean said he would look into it. There was a second table by Friday afternoon.

Because Hester had a conflict with the CoAS meeting in San Juan, Susan had also taken the minutes of the 2006 meeting and produced them.

She said that she has enjoyed being Chair of CoAS, but that she will not run again—four years is long enough!

Vice Chair: Cathy said that there had been no activity on her part.

Secretary: Hester said she hadn't even taken and produced the minutes this year.

Newsletter Editor: Marcel thanked all those who sent in information for the two newsletters; he hoped for more

pictures and for information about awards given and/or support for students, as well as meetings and field activities. There was then discussion about access to the newsletter on the SAA website (the website is being upgraded and the webmaster is relatively new; there have been problems with CoAS visibility on the SAA website). One problem seems to be that the link to each society's web was not "hot" last time Susan checked.

Old Business:

The **2006 poster contest** at San Juan had 23 entrants, and Wyoming won. There was a problem this year about the date of Archeology Month in a couple of states, i.e., some posters submitted were for May 2007. Those posters were rejected. It has been a 'rule' that the Month must be between March and March but this is the first time anyone has paid attention. Mention was made of the new website from the Public Education Committee (available at the [Public Archaeology website](#)) that shows all the winning posters from past years.

CoAS Poster Session at this meeting: There are nine affiliate posters on the theme: Avocational and Professional Partnerships: The Power of Cooperation: Texas, Kansas, Arizona, Arkansas, Nevada (3 organizations), California, and Alabama. Susan thought it would be good to do a poster session or a symposium every other year, perhaps. For example, a poster session again at Vancouver, and then skip a year and have a symposium on Stewardship in St. Louis at the 75th anniversary meeting.

Web Page: See previous discussion re: problems with SAA updating information and making links to all the affiliates web pages.

By-Laws Revisions: Cathy said that she had problems contacting Leslie for a while, but did get some "copyediting" kinds of comments from her. CoAS doesn't have By-Laws actually, it has Policies and Procedures and there are some things mentioned that we are not doing and some things the SAA is not doing. For example: we have been using the term President for the leader of CoAS and it turns out that the word should be Chair and Vice-Chair; the Procedures say that the SAA Executive Director should meet with CoAS not the SAA Board Liaison; there is no mention that the SAA will provide CoAS with a FREE booth in the Exhibit Hall at the Annual Meeting; and there is no mention of the Newsletter editor as an officer. Hester agreed to work with Cathy on suggested revisions and updates.

CoAS at the SHA: Susan had a CoAS display at the SHA meeting in January 2007 in Williamsburg, and she will see that CoAS is represented in the SHA Archeology Road Show at the 2008 meeting in January in Albuquerque. Any volunteers to help with this would be more than welcomed.

New Business:

We need to find candidates for our four officers.

Cathy does not want to be Chair, but is willing to continue as Vice-Chair. Hester agrees to continue as Secretary. It took some doing, but Marcel agreed to be Chair; and Gina *volunteered* to be co-editor (at least for the first issue) of the newsletter. Marcel said that he would like to have societies discuss in the newsletter such issues as how to bring new people into the society; what are you doing about the graying of your society; what has your group done this year to attract more members??

A motion was made, seconded and passed unanimously to elect the following officers: Marcel Kornfeld, Chair; Cathy Poetschat, Vice-Chair; Hester Davis, Secretary; and Gina Powell/Marcel Kornfeld, Newsletter Co-editors.

2007 Poster Contest: 20 participants this year, down a little perhaps because of the deadline being enforced.

There was some discussion about needing a CoAS Webmaster and about having an electronic version of the newsletter but no decision was made (because we were running out of time).

Jonathan Driver, our new SAA Board Liaison, appeared during the last 5 minutes, having been detained at another meeting. He was full of apologies. We ran out of time and did not have any reports on the activities of the societies represented at the meeting.

Hester passed out a copy of the recently signed Legislative Act in Arkansas amending the State Antiquity Act making it a felony (rather than a misdemeanor as it had been since 1967) to dig on state land or on private property without permission of the landowner.

Susan and Marcel were thanked publicly for their efforts in keeping CoAS viable for four years despite some lack of communication from/with the SAA.

The meeting was adjourned a few minutes before 6 pm.

Respectfully submitted
Hester Davis

FROM THE MEMBERS:

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF ALBERTA

by Autumn Whiteway

On September 23, 2007, four members of the ASA embarked on a field trip lead by Brian Vivian. The excursion was nearly canceled due to soggy and frigid weather conditions. However, we decided to tough it out and continue on to Grotto Canyon. After a scenic hike up the streambed, we stopped to investigate the Grotto Canyon pictographs.

Having seen the ASA's Grotto Canyon rock art postcards, I expected bright red figures painted on the cliff face. Instead, I found figures that were faded by the natural elements. Brian stopped the group as we almost bypassed the obscure rock art. While listening to Brian's interpretation of the site, I was particularly interested to see the Kokopelli-like (flute-player of Hopi myth) and Kachina-like figures that were seemingly out of place in Alberta.

The next site visited was the historical site of Bow Fort, located on the Morley Reserve. The fort was built as a trading post in 1832 but was quickly abandoned and demolished. After a quick surface survey we noted that the features of this site include chimney stones and post holes, and also contained a few scattered faunal remains. Prior to returning home, we also saw the Morley Mission, McDougall Orphanage, and a pictograph of a shield, located next to the Cochrane Ranch.

ARKANSAS ARCHEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

by Hester Davis (hadavis@uark.edu)

The 2007 Training Program for Amateur Archeologists was held June 8-24 in the beautiful Ouachita Mountains. A total of 87 Society members participated. The plan was to test a large Middle Archaic site (Jones Mill site) on the banks of the Ouachita River, which had been tested previously but which only, suggested that there were deep stratified deposits. The land is owned by Entergy Inc. who had given permission but whose lawyers decided at the VERY last minute (the day before everyone was to arrive) that the insurance that both the Arkansas Archeological Survey (co-sponsor of the program) and the Society had was not adequate. As a consequence, two other small Middle Archaic sites, known only from surface surveys, were opened to put people to work. Within a few days all was settled, and work at Jones Mill could proceed. One of the small sites had no depth and was closed down, but the volunteers continued at Jones Mill and the other smaller site. Jones Mill proved to have deep stratified Middle Archaic deposits, but because of division of the crew to two sites and the depth at Jones Mill, an insufficient sample was obtained, according to Dr. Mary Beth Trubitt,

the dig director and Survey Archeologist at Henderson State University. So the 2008 program will be held again in June at the Jones Mill site.

We have members from many neighboring states who attend our program. In addition to excavation, we run a lab for processing, and for the ridiculously low charge of \$12.50, you can register in our Certification Program. We offer 9 half-day seminars, which last five days. Usually five are given one week and 4 the other. The Basic Excavation seminar is offered twice and is a full day for five days so that both lectures and supervised excavation is covered. You do not *have* to be registered in the Program to attend a seminar, but those who are have first choice; and, of course, you must be a member of the Society to participate. For more information look at our website (www.arkarch) or contact the Society at 2475 North Hatch Ave, Fayetteville, AR 72704; email: bhscott@uark.edu.

The Arkansas Archeological Society's annual meeting is held the last week in September. This year it was held at a popular venue—the Ozark Folk Center in Mountain View—and it was, as a consequence, the second largest meeting we have had (Hot Springs attracted more!) with 116 registered, including a bunch from our neighbor to the north, Missouri State University. A reception on Friday night for visiting; a full day of papers on Saturday; a banquet and guest speaker; and a tour of Blanchard Springs Caverns constituted the full agenda. The weather was perfect. We were able to give our highest award, the McGimsey Preservation Award, to two people this year: Society member James Johnston, who, because he found that pothunters were digging in a site on his land, went to his local state representative and suggested that an amendment to the 1967 State Antiquities Act was needed to strengthen the punishments for removal of artifacts without landowner permission. James testified at Committee hearings, and he found a sponsor for the bill in the Senate. Representative Roy Ragland shepherded the bill through the legislature and we were very pleased to be able to bestow the McGimsey Award on him for this important improvement to the law. Sam Brookes, Forest Service Archeologist in Mississippi, was the banquet speaker. He gave a stimulating and amusing public lecture on the Middle Archaic period in Mississippi.

SOCIETY FOR CALIFORNIA ARCHAEOLOGY

by Candace Ehringer (ehringerc@gmail.com)

I have three items of interest to report on for this CoAS newsletter. First, the Society for California Archaeology (SCA) has moved Archaeology Month from May to October, mainly because October will better fit into California's K-12 curricula, facilitating SCA outreach with California schools. The theme of this year's

Archaeology Month is “The Archaeology of Colonial California.” The 2007 Archaeology Month poster, “Digitally Documenting Colonial California,” was created by Eric Blind of UC-Berkeley and the Presidio Trust. It is a visual representation of the digital restoration process of a mural at Mission Dolores. The mural was painted circa 1790 by Native American artists, but was covered by a relief sculpture and concealed for over 200 years. See www.missiondoloresmural.com for more information. Other CoAS members should prepare for some stiff competition at the 2008 SAA Poster Competition!

Second, the latest issue of the SCA Newsletter (Vol. 41, No. 3) is devoted to CASSP (the California Archaeological Site Stewardship Program), with many if not most of the articles written by volunteer site stewards. CASSP was established in 1999 as a Society for California Archaeology program; the SCA manages and monitors the group's activities. It consists of a partnership between archaeologists, public land management agencies, Native Americans, and citizen volunteers. The goal of the program is to protect archaeological and historical sites and increase public awareness of these sites. Volunteers from all walks of life and of all ages work with local archaeologists to monitor and report on sites in their local areas. Each site steward is assigned a site, which they visit about once a month to inspect it for damage caused by vandalism and other sources. He or she fills out a two-page form and takes pictures. This information is handed over to the supervising archaeologist (usually an archaeologist from a public agency) and is often forwarded to the region's information center.

Volunteers receive two days of training during which they learn about local archaeology, safety procedures, and how to deal with difficult situations, in addition to visiting a real archaeological site to get hands-on experience with their new duties. Volunteers can also take advanced workshops, learning skills like mapping, lab analysis, and how to record rock art. Currently, there are about 100 active site stewards. The dedication of these volunteers is exemplified by Spencer Berman and Ron Weitz, who work under the guidance of BLM archaeologist Wanda Raschkow. The two spent four days hiking (over New Year's, no less!) into the Santa Rosa Mountains (near the Salton Sea) gaining 5800' in altitude to monitor archaeological sites, such as an outcropping containing bedrock mortars and milling slicks.

Lastly, I would like to report on the SCA's 41st Annual Meeting held in San Jose from March 22-25. The theme of the meeting was public outreach and education. At least 735 people attended the meeting, including more Native American contributors/participants than ever before. As always, the silent auction was a big success, generating nearly \$20,000 in proceeds (including ticket sales). The awards banquet keynote speaker was Timothy

R. Pauketat of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. His address was titled "Talk about Politics and Religion! How Ancient Cahokia 'Civilized' Eastern North America." The Martin A. Baumhoff Special Achievement Award was presented to Robert L. Bettinger by David Hurst Thomas, a lifelong friend and colleague. The Lifetime Achievement Award was given to Keith L. Johnson, who co-founded the anthropology department at CSU-Chico and has been a member of the SCA for over 40 years. On the last day of the meetings, UC Berkeley and the Presidio Trust hosted the First Annual SCA Archaeology Public Day. Over 350 members of the public attended the event. Several hands-on activities were available, including flint knapping, basketry, food preparation, excavation, artifact identification, and stratigraphic analysis. The event also included exhibits and demonstrations by museums, universities, government agencies, descendant communities (including Native American, Chinese, and Japanese groups), and technical specialists such as zooarchaeologists, costumed interpreters, and dancers. The day was a big hit and will likely be included in future SCA meetings.

MASSACHUSETTS ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

by Tonya Largy, M.A

The MAS has continued to welcome our members and the public over the last year. The number of visitors has increased, I believe in response to our efforts to publicize the Robbins Museum as well as our expanded web site (www.massarchaeology.org), which gives us more exposure. The new children's program has brought children and their families from a wide area to the Robbins Museum. We also initiated the First Annual Poster and Essay contest to involve fifth grade students of the Commonwealth in the study of archaeology. Over 200 submissions were judged and prizes given for the best in each category.

In May, the A.D. Makepeace Corporation awarded us a grant of \$4,000 toward our Native American Educational Outreach Project. With these funds, we were able to hire a museum education specialist to develop school tours with assistance from Native American Consultants. Also, it will enable the Robbins Museum to open one additional day to provide more flexibility for scheduling field trips and for visitation by both our members and the public. We also received several other smaller grants as well as generous donations from our members.

A smaller grant from the Middleborough Cultural Council enabled MAS to reprint *Wapanucket*, one of our most significant publications, which went out of print in 2006. To celebrate our success, we sponsored a month-long exhibit in the Middleborough Public Library and offered a free public lecture on recent research conducted by Dr. James Bradley, our *Bulletin* editor, on Paleo-Indian

artifacts from the Wapanucket site on the north shore of Assawomsett Pond in Middleborough. The Technology Committee's proposal to the IBM Corporation obtained a new desktop computer and a network printer. The new computer awarded to the Society is being used to maintain inventory records.

Collections inventory work continues with an increase in hours spent by volunteers and staff. During the past winter, a group of Native Americans from the Wampanoag Program at Plimoth Plantation came in weekly to assist us with the inventory until they returned to work at the Plantation. Their volunteer hours and those of two other volunteers helped to advance the inventory process directed by Curtiss Hoffman. We are now reviewing our museum accession procedures and hope to improve those as well.

Our Annual Meeting and Conference was held at the Middleborough Public Library on October 13, 2007, with a Symposium, organized by Rhode Island member Alan Leveillee, on the *Transitional Archaic Period*. An open house for conference attendees and the general public immediately followed the afternoon presentations.

Even though MAS faces numerous challenges as a small non-profit organization run almost entirely by volunteers in today's fiscal climate, I remain optimistic that we hold an important position in the Commonwealth as keepers of Native American artifacts entrusted to us and the culture they represent. Our mission is to make this information available to our members, Native Americans, archaeologists, historians, and the interested public.

MISSOURI ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

We had the MAS annual meeting March 30-April 1 in Lake Ozark, Missouri, marking 72 years of MAS history. This year's meeting was a joint effort with the Missouri Association of Professional Archaeologists (MAPA). The gathering included two meetings of the MAS Board of Directors (first with old members, second with the new), the MAPA Board of Directors and business meeting, an open exhibit (well attended and presented), book sales, and a silent auction, and the annual Koch Lecture given by Dr. Patricia O'Brien of Kansas State University, Distinguished Professor Emerita. She spoke about her ethnographic and archaeological research on Pawnee religious cosmology and sacred places in the central Plains. There were representatives of the Arkansas, Iowa, and Illinois archaeology societies at the meeting.

Boonslick Chapter

by Earl Lubensky (lubenskye@missouri.edu)

We (MAS and Boone County Historical Society) conducted the 2007 field exercise, for a third year (June 22-28) at the site of the old town of Lexington in Boone

County. We had hoped to find more evidence of the town of Lexington but in spite of indications in a resistivity study of a possible structure, just to the west of last year's excavation of the blacksmith shop area, the results did not prove the existence of a structure. We tried a series of cuts near the two features (a burned building and a well) uncovered in 2005, but also found little evidence of other structures. There is a mass of artifacts yet to be examined, however, and we are hopeful some evidence may come out of their analysis.

I am working on revival of the Boonslick Archaeological Society (chapter of MAS), which has not met for some time after the MAS was moved out of University facilities here and went to Springfield. I am hoping an arrangement can be made with the Boone County Historical Society, uniting in this area the historic and prehistoric period of Boone County past. As of now things look promising, but it is still a hope.

We are still analyzing the artifacts (in my basement) from the 2006 exercise, and then will come careful analysis of the results and publication. If we can get the Boonslick Society going again we plan a joint presentation (me and Dave Sapp from the Boone County Historical Society) on the Rock Bridge Park excavation of a structure from the old Rock Bridge community we did jointly in 2003. I am preparing a PowerPoint presentation for the Woodland symposium on my work directing the Mendenhall sites excavations in 1983, 1985, and 1986 (23BO876 and 23BO87).

Kansas City Chapter

New Fort Osage Museum, by Gina Powell (ginsugard-coas@yahoo.com)

We are happy to announce the official opening of the new Fort Osage Education Center in eastern Jackson County, Missouri. The fort was built in 1808, under the direction of William Clark, and the design reflects its dual role as a military garrison and Native American trade center. The archaeological site on which the museum sits was excavated by a team of professional and avocational archaeologists in 2005. The results of the excavation are displayed at the museum.

Work begins in "The Burned District", by Ann Raab
Ann Raab, R.P.A, PhD Archaeology student at the University of Kansas, is conducting archaeological investigations in Bates County, Missouri, with the help of students. Known as "The Burned District" because of the devastation brought about by General Order #11 in the midst of the Civil War, Ann is locating rural farmsteads that were inhabited before, during, and after this event. The focus of the work is to shed light on how people in the area—including farmers, women, enslaved African Americans, and free African Americans—were living before, during, and after this tumultuous time. Excavations began with a pilot project in Amsterdam,

MO in October of 2007, with the expectation that a longer-term field project will follow in the spring/summer of 2008.

Ozarks Chapter, by Jack Ray

Work at the multicomponent Big Eddy site continued with the excavation of 12 sq. m in the pre-Clovis-age deposits. Unfortunately, nothing of significance was found. We did, however, find a few interesting San Patrice tools in deposits overlying pre-Clovis areas. Neal Lopinot and Jack are currently writing up the fourth and final volume on the Big Eddy site, which will deal with all our Paleoindian and potential pre-Clovis-age findings through the years. For more information on the Big Eddy site, please see <http://www.missouristate.edu/car/>.

Jack's new book, *Ozarks Chipped-Stone Resources: A Guide to the Identification, Distribution, and Prehistoric Use of Cherts and Other Siliceous Raw Materials*, is now available. It is a product of more than 25 years of research on the various raw materials in the Ozarks that prehistoric Native Americans used to make chipped-stone tools. The purpose of the book is to provide a reference source or guide to the bewildering array of chipped-stone (knappable) resources available in the Ozarks. The normal purchase price for this publication is \$45, but it is being offered to Missouri Archaeological Society (MAS) members for \$35. To purchase this new publication, please contact the [MAS office](#).

Southwest Missouri Chapter, by Lyle Sparkman

We sent five volunteers to the Big Eddy site during June (2007) to help screen through the Paleo-level buckets of sediment excavated by the University of Kansas crew under the watchful eye of site specialist Jack Ray of Missouri State University's Center for Archaeological Research.

OREGON ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Ideas for Getting Presenters and Activities for Your Society by Cathy Poetschat (poetschat@msn.com)

Every month (except during the summer) the Oregon Archaeological Society (OAS) has a business meeting, followed by a presentation about archaeology by a guest presenter. Most of the time the presenters are involved with OAS in other ways. Information about these other involvements may give some ideas to societies who are looking for presenters, activities, or projects to support.

OAS gets ideas for presenters from OAS members who volunteer on the presenter's projects or events; have given support to a presenter's cause; have read a new book by the presenter; or heard the presenter at a conference. Other presenters have been teachers at our 'Training Program' classes or recipients of a grant or

scholarship from OAS. We have had a few presenters come to us, asking to make a presentation to get the word out about their project or organization, so that our audience might want to join them or help on their projects.

The following are a few examples of OAS involvement with our presenters. They are given in hope that other societies can get some ideas for possible presenters (from those you already do other things with), or possible activities (with your presenters) for your members:

*ALISON STENGER (Institute for Archaeological Studies) has given many presentations to OAS about historic, prehistoric, and underwater archaeology projects, and most recently paleontological projects. She has been an OAS Member for over 20 years. She and Chuck Hibbs directed many years of excavation and laboratory work at Ft. Vancouver, Felida Moorage, and Woodburn Sites, with OAS volunteers. They led an OAS Committee that formed the OAS Training Program in the early 1990s, and taught the classes until Hibbs's death five years ago. Stenger has involved OAS in most all of her projects, and is co-editor of our monthly newsletter. She supports, and is on the committee for Oregon Archaeology Celebration (OAC, archaeology month) and OAS also supports OAC, and has a member on that committee.

*JAMES KEYSER (former USFS Regional Archaeologist) gave an OAS Training Program 'Archaeological Draftsmanship' class 14 years ago. He has gone on to make many OAS presentations about rock art and archaeological laws, teach many classes on rock art documentation, lead many OAS rock art projects, created and led two OAS International Rock Art Symposia, raises money for OAS projects and publications, writes many OAS publications about rock art, gives European rock art tours that OAS members have participated in, encourages members to get undergraduate and graduate degrees, and was OAS President twice! All this involvement started after he was asked to teach that class 14 years ago.

*RICHARD MCCLURE (USFS Gifford Pinchot NF Archaeologist) has made numerous presentations to OAS about his USFS Passport In Time (PIT) projects in the Gifford Pinchot National Forest. He enlisted OAS help when he was developing his first PIT project and many OAS members have participated in his PIT projects since then. He gave OAS booths for us to promote OAS and archaeology at the USFS 'Windows on the Past' Fairs all over the State. McClure has taught the OAS Training Program's Survey class many times, assists with our Stewardship Program, and is a resource and advocate for OAS.

*RICHARD PETTIGREW (Archaeological Legacy Institute 'ALI') has given many presentations to OAS, and

this year his presentation will be about ALI's very successful The Archaeology Channel (TAC) he formed. Pettigrew invites OAS members to help at his annual ALI International Archaeology Film and Video Festivals, and at his ArchaeologyFest Film Series. He provides OAS a table at these events for us to promote OAS and sell our books. Pettigrew had many OAS members help on an excavation project last year in Portland. He supports the Oregon Archaeology Celebration, and so does OAS.

*DOUGLAS WILSON (NPS Archaeologist) came to OAS many years ago with a presentation about his 'Garbology' Garbage Project in Arizona. Since then he has made presentations about NPS Ft. Vancouver and Ft. Clatsop archaeology projects. Many members have volunteered to help on various excavation and laboratory projects at Ft. Vancouver before and since Wilson joined the NPS. One of those members is Paul Lawson, who even gave Ft. Vancouver his vast archaeology/geology library this year.

*THOMAS GUDERJAN (Maya Research Program) contacted OAS and offered to give a presentation about his non-profit Blue Creek Project in Belize. We got a program attended by over 200 people, and Guderjan was able to interest possible volunteers to contribute to the project, and give information about his new book.

*Many OAS presenters are obtained by asking archaeologists to come and give a talk about their projects. This public outreach gives their projects interest, support, and volunteers if they ask for them. It provides our audience information about local archaeology projects and possible volunteer opportunities.

*OAS asks that recipients of our scholarships and grants give a presentation about the projects we helped fund, and this can lead to other OAS involvement with them.

In summary, I hope that these examples will give you ideas for presenters and activities for your society. Everyone can gain from helping each other out - for the betterment of archaeology!

SASKATCHEWAN ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Excerpts from the Journal of Robert Clipperton,
Volunteer Excavator at the South Branch House

South Branch House, occupied from 1786 to 1794, played a significant role in the history of the fur trade in the province. Between archaeological evidence and historical documentation of the events surrounding South Branch House's demise, we hope to better understand the trials of life at a typical Hudson's Bay post. Explorer and mapmaker, David Thompson, helped build the fort, and also documented the daily activities while there.

Field School at South Branch House: Day One

8:42 – Arrive at SAS Office. Too early. Wait in car while listening to a former CIA Operative on CBC Radio telling us that we are digging ourselves into a hole in Afghanistan. Excavation to follow I guess.

9:20 – Depart for South Branch House. Pleasant Day. Projected high of 32°C.

10:44 – Talina Cyr-Steenkamp, the Executive Director, assembles us in front of the historic markers at SBH. Says she will tell us all about the site. I quickly return to car for lawn chair and thermos of coffee. This is my type of school.

11:02 – Tour of site including unisex latrine with great ventilation and view of river.

11:20 – We are divided into teams and each is assigned a square metre of ground.

12:00 - We ignore the call for lunch to get the edge on the opposing teams.

12:30 - Lunch in the shade of a tarp strung in the trees. Light breeze. No bugs.

1:03 - The competition begins in earnest.

1:52 - Loud team next door extols bone fragment. We continue to dig out grass and roots. Score 1-0.

2:36 - More bone fragments from next door. Ours must be hidden under the layer of sod against which we are rapidly making progress. Score 2-0.

3:18 - Neighbouring team exposes a piece of bone large enough to be drawn on a diagram. Score 3-0. We begin to take pride in the evenness of our excavation and the meticulous manner in which we work.

3:49 – Someone notes that the 3rd team has found a lot of bone. We try to ignore them until they uncover the nail, which is obviously the find of the day. We quit keeping score.

4:00 – My teammates abandon me due to prior commitments in Saskatoon. I finish off their quadrants to complete the level, finding three microscopic bone flakes. I quietly put them into a Ziploc™ bag and fill out the label.

4:48 – Help staff pack up for the night.

5:07 – Depart for Saskatoon wondering where I can get some artefacts to plant for tomorrow's competition.

South Branch House: Day Two

9:06 - My team assembles for the day's struggles.

9:08 - Leader of Team 3 requests larger artefact bags, loudly for our benefit.

9:14 - With renewed optimism we 'attack' the pit.

10:03 - "It's a bead!" - the sound resonates from Pit 2 next door. We ooh and aah appropriately to maintain yesterday's solidarity against Team 3.

11:31 - "Another bead!" - we are less enthusiastic but still polite.

12:30 - Lunch in the shade. Very pleasant. You could almost think our competitors were nice people.

1:48 - "Look, a pipe stem!" Again from Team 2. My teen-aged teammate speculates on what a chemical analysis of

residues inside would show and as an aside asks if I did a lot of drugs when I was younger.

2:37-The Bead Queens make another announcement. A green one this time.

2:56 - We uncover a few miniscule bone fragments and stop to do the paperwork. Wander over to Pit 3. They show me their collection of rodent bones. Quite appropriate I think.

3:29 - Team 3 finds a piece of glass.

4:02 - Teen-aged teammate muses about how music would make the time go faster. Blues maybe. Sings the words "I got a pit but I ain't got no artefacts, oooooohhhh," under his breath.

4:52 - About to pack up. We have uncovered the tops of two larger pieces of fire-cracked rock. We conceal our find so as to demoralize the opposition first thing in the morning.

South Branch House: Day Three

9:06 - Arrived late at site. Delayed by the group of turkey vultures perched on fence posts between Rosthern and Batoche. Is this an omen?

9:10 - We uncover the pits. Large pools of water on the tarps from last night's rainstorm. We manage to pull the first tarp off only to have the water all run downhill and back into the Bead Queens' pit. They think it was an accident.

9:34 - Turns out our fire-cracked rocks are not fire-cracked at all, just rocks.

9:43 - "Look!" a shrill voice from the group of Bead Queens echoes in the trees. "Another pipe stem." We keep digging.

10:02 - "Another bead!" We try to look like we are concentrating too hard on our work to notice.

10:23 - "Buffalo skull," exclaims a voice from Pit 3. It isn't. Just a large collection of bones. Quite impressive actually. Looks like horse bones to me. South Branch House undoubtedly.

12:00 – Break for lunch after marveling how the Bead Queens managed to find tiny lead ball of gunshot.

1:23 – Talina tries to boost our morale by identifying one of our rocks as a core of Swan River chert. We bag it and do the paper work. Teen-aged teammate shows his artistic side by doing the mapping diagram. Good thing. I can only draw stick rocks.

2:13 – "Another one!" We don't look up. It only encourages them.

3:05 – I go over to inspect the 'Horse Pit'. Scapula with round circles cut out of it. Pipe stem in with the bones. I decide not to mention my two small bone fragments.

3:15 – Break. I maneuver the conversation around to the possibility of live anthrax spores thriving amongst buried bison bones, for those so unfortunate to come across them.

4:41 – Bead Queens ponder whether they are at the bottom of their pit, as they haven't found an artefact for maybe 12 minutes. Discussion is interrupted by "Here's another blue one."

5:10 – Talina and Mike suggest that our pit be abandoned as non-productive after 35 cm of basically nothing. We are to be re-assigned to a new pit in the morning. Understand the origin of the expression, “This is the pits.”

5:23 – Clean up is interrupted by a large bear that is watching the action from the wheat field

SOUTH BRANCH HOUSE: DAY FOUR

9:17 - Arrive on site.

9:22 - Our team is being disbanded and our expertise spread around. The teen-ager infiltrates the Bead Queens while I am joined at a new pit by two of the Horse Bone Whisperers. I am confident that this is due to my demonstrated excellence at digging through grass and roots.

10:14 - Continue to do machete work with a dull trowel.

11:26 - Defying the pounding rays of the sun, I bag a few limestone flakes.

12:29 - The Bead Queens are shaken out of their artefact-induced euphoria by a call to lunch.

1:56 - One of the Horse Whisperers in my pit finds a piece of broken kitchenware.

3:12 - It is determined that the South Branch Horse is actually the remains of two elk. I choose to think that it is really remains of a single member of the now extinct four-scapula elk.

3:32 - My find of the week – a possible prune pit. This would prove that South Branch House was not used by regular fur traders.

4:29 - Have reached the bottom of our level, we record and put our tools away.

WYOMING ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

by Marcel Kornfeld (anpro1@uwyo.edu)

The spring meeting of WAS was held at Saratoga from April 20-21, 2007. The well-attended meeting included presentations of current research by professional archaeologists throughout the state, as well as many UW students. As usual a silent auction and banquet were part of the events. The banquet speaker was E. Jim Dixon of CU at Boulder. Dixon discussed his ideas and data from his excavations at On-Your-Knees-Cave to argue for a probable Pacific Coastal migration hypothesis for the First Americans. At the meeting, the WAS scholarship committee awarded the Frison award to graduate student Patrick Mullen, however, no undergraduates applied for the Mulloy award and no Ph.D. students applied for the Henry and Clara Jensen travel grant. The annual award of appreciation for years of contribution and service to Wyoming Archaeology (the Golden Trowel Award) was presented to Will Husted of Billing, Montana.

During the summer, WAS members participated in several projects throughout the state and the region. Many members participated in excavation and recording of rock images at Legend Rock, a major concentration of

petroglyphs in central Wyoming, just outside of Thermopolis, and a part of Hot Springs State Park. Other WAS members excavated at the stratified Paleoindian Hell Gap site in east central Wyoming. Hell Gap, owned by the Wyoming Archaeological Foundation (WAF), a branch of WAS, is being investigated by the George C. Frison Institute of the University of Wyoming, under a long term cooperative agreement. The project at Hell Gap includes research, field schools, volunteer opportunities, and exhibits/tours. Aside from visitations during biennial field seasons, local school groups visit the site every year.

The WAS held its annual summer meeting at the Hell Gap site as well. The participants toured the site and the WAF property, excavated, participated in lab work, and assisted in the maintenance of the field facilities. The WAS featured speaker and guest at the meeting was Bob Patton from Denver. Along with helping us dig, Bob did a number of daytime and evening flintknapping sessions for the meeting participants, in the process making several fine preforms and points. Many members of WAS chose to help in maintaining the facilities, consisting mostly of cutting and clearing trees that have grown into the fence and maintaining the fence. Also visiting Hell Gap during the WAS summer meeting were members of the Kimble family. The Kimbles owned a ranch at the location of the current field camp for the Hell Gap project and their family's ranch ruins are among the recent archaeological treasures of the WAF property. The WAS members learned a lot about the historic archaeological remains from the Kimble's and the meeting will hopefully spur some oral histories.

The next meeting of the WAS will be in Rock Spring from April 25-17, 2008, hope you can join us!

**Invitation to all SAA Council of Affiliated Society Members
to Participate in the Exhibit Booth and General Meeting at the Annual SAA Meeting in
Vancouver, BC, Canada, March 26-30, 2008**

The Society for American Archaeology (SAA) works cooperatively with regional societies through the Council of Affiliated Societies (CoAS). The Council was established by the SAA board of directors for the mutual benefit of the societies and to advance the practice of archaeology. CoAS members receive two CoAS newsletters per year, a copy of *The SAA Archaeological Record*, are represented at the annual meeting if they send a representative, and are allotted space at the CoAS booth in the Exhibit Hall. This year's CoAS Business Meeting will be held on **Thursday, March 27th from 4-6 pm** as part of the SAA Meeting. The meeting room is the Lord Byron Room at the Hyatt Regence Hotel, 655 Burrard St., which is another hotel about three blocks from the main hotel.

CoAS Booth in the Exhibit Hall at the SAA Meeting

Thanks to the SAA Board and Executive Director, CoAS will have a booth at the SAA Annual Meeting in Vancouver. We encourage CoAS member societies to participate at the conference by having your members volunteer to staff the booth and share information about CoAS and your society with conference attendees. Your society can display literature, such as journals, journal lists, brochures, newsletters, membership applications, publication lists, a t-shirt, button, decal, and your state's archaeology week/month poster, and other items at the booth. We cannot sell things at the booth. Located in the large exhibit hall in the Vancouver Convention and Exhibition Centre, the booth typically attracts many of the 3000+ conference attendees. This is a great opportunity for CoAS to promote the role of avocational groups at the SAA meetings and promote the help we've given on archaeological projects, and much more.

How can your Society participate, you ask? Read on!

1) All CoAS Societies will have their name listed prominently on a banner at the booth. CoAS membership demonstrates a commitment to archaeology. Your society is a CoAS member or immediate past member and we are proud of your dedication.

2) CoAS societies can help staff the booth to share information about CoAS and their own local society. It is a great opportunity to staff the booth a few hours and then explore the rest of the exhibit hall and the conference. We also co-sponsor the SAA Archaeology Poster Contest with the SAA Public Education Committee that takes place in the exhibit hall.

3) Your Society can send items for the CoAS Booth to:

HOLD FOR ARRIVING GUEST:
Cathy Poetschat (3-26-08)
Renaissance Harborside Marriott Hotel
1133 West Hastings Street
Vancouver, British Columbia
V6E3T3, Canada

Send your name, address, phone number and email address with your organization's materials. PLEASE DO NOT SEND YOUR PACKAGE TOO EARLY OR WE MAY NOT GET IT! Check with your local post office or shipping service for approximate delivery times. Please try to have the

materials arrive between March 24th and 26th. We will not be able to return the material by mail, but you can pick it up on Saturday in the Exhibition Hall.

4) **YOUR ORGANIZATION CAN SEND A REPRESENTATIVE!** Sending a representative has several advantages. First, they can be your organization's eyes, ears, and voice at the annual CoAS business meeting. Second, you can bring your society's materials with you instead of mailing them. And finally, your representative can staff the booth for a few hours and receive a pass to the exhibit hall as well as network with other groups attending the meeting. Call or email Cathy Poetschat in advance to schedule volunteer hours and arrange for a pass.

So help us celebrate the 73rd Anniversary of the SAA and take advantage of this fantastic opportunity to get out information about your society. **CALL OR EMAIL US WITH YOUR QUESTIONS** or if you are interested in sending material to be shown/distributed at the CoAS booth or volunteering a few hours of your time. If you are attending the meeting and can't decide whether to volunteer right now, drop by the booth and let us know if you have some free time. On-site volunteers are always welcome. We hope to see you and your society's materials in Vancouver!

Sincerely,

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